

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/914,526

Examiner

Lorna M. Douyon

Applicant(s)

MORT III ET AL.

Art Unit

1751

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment dated August 22, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 4-6, 12-13 renumbered 1-6 respectively.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Lorna M. Douyon
Lorna M. Douyon
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1751

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jerry J. Yetter on October 25, 2005.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

- 2.1. Claim 15 has been cancelled without prejudice to its continued prosecution in a continuation application.

- 2.2. The Abstract has been replaced with the following:

--A process for preparing a detergent particle having a coating layer of a water-soluble material is provided. The process comprises providing a particle core of a detergent active material and the particle core is then at least partially covered by a particle coating layer of a water soluble coating material including double salt combinations of alkali metal carbonates and sulfates that reduces the surface area of the particle.--

- 2.3. The TITLE has been replaced with the following: --PROCESS FOR PREPARING DETERGENT PARTICLES HAVING COATING OR PARTIAL COATING LAYERS--

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims in their present amended forms have overcome the prior art of record because none of them teaches, discloses or suggests a process for preparing a detergent particle in the manner as those specifically recited in particular the step of applying a water soluble, non-silicate, coating material comprising a mixture of alkali metal carbonate and sulfate in an aqueous or slurry form onto a particle core and drying said aqueous or slurry form to provide a particle coating layer at least partially covering said particle core whereby said particle coating layer provides a surface area reduction of at least about 10% and wherein the particle core comprises a blend of anionic surfactants and alkali metal carbonates. Neither Maden, Bishop nor Appel '628, close prior art of record, teaches, discloses or suggests a coating material comprising a mixture of alkali metal carbonate and sulfate in an aqueous or slurry form. Appel '124, another close prior art of record, although teaching mixing together a granulate comprising anionic surfactant and inorganic material like sodium carbonate, and burkeite containing spray dried adjunct (which is in solid form) (see col. 8, lines 57-62; col. 15, line 1 to col. 16, line 53), Appel '124 fails to teach, disclose or suggest the step of applying a water soluble, non-silicate, coating material comprising a mixture of alkali metal carbonate and sulfate in an aqueous or slurry form onto the granulate. Accordingly, the subject matter, as a whole, would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the detergent art.

The terminal disclaimer filed on October 25, 2005 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of US Patent

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Nos: 6,596,683 and 6,858,572 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lorna M. Douyon whose telephone number is (571) 272-1313. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays from 8:00AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta can be reached on (571) 272-1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lorna M. Douyon
Lorna M. Douyon
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1751